

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 30, 2007. Claims 10, 11, 13-20 are pending in this application, with claims 13-18 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 10 and 19 are the independent claims presently under consideration. By the present Amendment, claims 10 and 19 have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,408,560 to Keehn. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,752,562 to Mills et al. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by DE 3,223,302 to Leitner. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 575,032 to Kimbrell.

Interview Summary OK  
/JK/  
5/5/2008

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned attorney during the telephone interview conducted on April 24, 2008. During that interview various aspects of the present disclosure were discussed.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite a lock pin with push-button-operated axial locking, comprising a tubular body having radially outwards directed recesses, an actuating plunger in the tubular body and axially displaceable under spring loading and a plurality of rigid locking elements pointing in opposite directions which are mounted in said radially outwards directed recesses in the body and which are moved by pressure of said plunger. Each of the plurality of rigid locking elements has at least one semi-circular claw-like portion arranged to interlock the plurality of rigid locking elements together in an interlocked position, the